

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-4 have been withdrawn and Claims 8-10 have been added as new claims to further additional aspects of the applicants' invention. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/07373 (Okamoto et al.) This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Okamoto teaches producing a visual display of a surrounding condition image using a plurality of vehicle cameras for the driver to reference while manually operating the vehicle. Applicants' independent Claim 6, in contrast, recites superimposing on such an image "a circumscribed area trace of space where the vehicle passes as the vehicle is moved by a predetermined driving operation". Such traces of space are illustrated in Figures 5A, 6A and 11 of the application, and are shown to superimpose the surrounding conditions image in Figures 7, 8, 12 and 13.

Superimposition of the trace of space on the surrounding conditions image allows the user to identify a predetermined driving operation that will successfully navigate the surrounding conditions to achieve a desired end position and orientation of the vehicle. Independent Claim 6 does not limit the user to executing the driving operation automatically, but also covers manual operation of the vehicle according to the identified driving operation. In contrast, Okamoto merely displays the surrounding conditions, and

not a trace of space encroached by movement of the vehicle according to a predetermined driving operation. Accordingly, independent Claim 6 recites limitations to subject matter not taught by Okamoto.

In addition, in Figs. 65 and 68 of Okamoto, the solid lines merely represent the road lines captured by the camera, and the cars with dots merely represent the other cars captured by the camera.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 6 and dependent claim 7 are allowable over the cited reference.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claim 5 is allowed.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 8 - 10 are presented for consideration. Applicants submit that these claims are also allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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